

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 923.**

A little over a year ago we commented editorially on the advisability of forming union health departments in order to secure full time health service for small communities. The suggestion, advanced at that time, has borne fruit in the form of a bill which comes before the present legislature endorsed by the League of California Municipalities.

Assembly Bill No. 923 will at once commend itself to every physician thoughtful enough to realize the powerful weapons which we are furnishing for our own undoing by our present shiftless methods of public health administration. A few comments on the bill are in order:

1. The bill provides for the union of small counties into health districts with a minimum of 20,000 population but no county is subdivided.

2. Over each of these districts is placed a health officer who is compensated in part by the state and in part by the district. This makes the officer a state employee in fact, and therefor subject to state regulations.

3. The district health officer must be trained in the profession of public health, must pass an examination, and must give full time to the service of his district.

4. The bill further provides that any incorporated city in the district may call upon the district to provide a health administration for that city, but the city is not compelled to surrender its health administration. Political economists tell us that the county is the most efficient unit of government and it should not be hard to convince any small city that it would be sound business policy to surrender its health administration to the county or district.

5. The bill is not advanced in the interests of any "school of medicine." Indeed the medical degree is not prerequisite for appointment to the position of district health officer.

6. The bill does not create any new machinery, nor does it carry a large appropriation.

7. The district health officer would be beyond the suspicion of professional competition with medical men and would therefor receive a cordial support now unfortunately lacking.

The bill has been well endorsed, but its progress can be furthered by personal effort. Let every physician who believes in efficient public health administration work for Assembly Bill No. 923 and its Senate duplicate.

J. N. F.

**INCOME TAX.**

Late in January, a circular of information was received calling attention to the required filing of an information blank in the matter of the income tax, before March 1st. It was too late to mention the subject in the February issue, then on the press. Why cannot our beneficent Federal government give us a little more notice about these somewhat important things? The return is supposed to be made before March 1st, and one month's notice is not very liberal; people forget things and have to be reminded, sometimes.

**EXPERIENCE IN ADVERTISING; A FACT.**

Some time ago the Society bought a lot of binders which can be quite easily used by any one to bind the numbers of the *STATE JOURNAL* as they come along, and at the end of the year have the whole volume permanently bound with a good, strong, serviceable binding; one that will last a life-time and look well on your shelves. From time to time, as we have available space in the advertising pages of the *JOURNAL*—for sometimes there is a half-page or a page that is not taken and we do not like a blank page—we insert an advertisement of these binders which we sell at sixty cents, postage paid; just about cost. It has been quite interesting to watch this for the last couple of years. Never has the advertisement of these binders been inserted in an issue of the *JOURNAL* that a reply did not come from it. Every time we have run the ad, at least one, and from one to a dozen subscribers, have written to the *JOURNAL*, enclosing the money and asking for the binders. Evidently it pays to advertise—if you advertise something that the reader wants; but he does not always want what you try to make him want badly enough to buy!

# American

# Medical Association

MEETS

# San Francisco

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COME!